

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Page 14 VIET-S

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REF : SAIGON 24451 - *Page 14*

SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: APRIL 29 AND MAY 2 MORNING SESSION

1. CA BEGAN DEBATE ON REVISED COMMITTEE DRAFT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW (OUR TRANSLATION TRANSMITTED REFTEL)

2. ARTICLE 1 APPROVED WITH LITTLE DEBATE. ARTICLE 2 WHICH DEALS

WITH DATE OF ELECTION WAS POINT OF SOME CONTROVERSY ALTHOUGH CA. EVENTUALLY VOTED TO SET DATE AT SEPTEMBER 3. ONLY ONE DEPUTY VOTED IN FAVOR OF ORIGINAL DATE OF SEPTEMBER 1 WHICH HAD BEEN DECIDED BY ARMED FORCES COUNCIL AND DIRECTORATE, WHILE 13 DEPUTIES VOTED FOR FIXING DATE AT SEPTEMBER 10.

3. ARTICLE 3 APPROVED WITH SLIGHT ADDITION INTENDED TO INSURE THAT MAYORS AND PROVINCE CHIEFS DO NOT ARBITRARILY POSTPONE ELECTION IN THEIR LOCALITY. ARTICLE NOW READS AS FOLLOWS ADDED PORTION UNDERLINED:

QUOTE ARTICLE 3. IF IN ANY LOCALITY ELECTIONS CANNOT BE HELD FOR REASONS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, MAYORS AND PROVINCE CHIEFS OF THAT LOCALITY, (BEGIN UNDERLINE) WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, (END UNDERLINE) ARE AUTHORIZED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS UNTIL THE NEXT MOST FAVORABLE DATE AFTER INFORMING THE SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION. UNQUOTE

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4. ARTICLES 4 AND 5 WERE APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE. IN DEBATE ON ARTICLE 6 DEPUTIES AGREED THAT PROPER RECORD SHOULD BE KEPT OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY WHO VOTE AWAY FROM THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO PREVENT THEM FROM VOTING MORE THAN ONCE. CA THEREFORE VOTED TO ADD FOLLOWING SENTENCE TO SECOND PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 6:

QUOTE IN SUCH CASES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF THE POLLING BOOTH MUST PREPARE AN ADDITIONAL LIST FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL. UNQUOTE

5. DURING MAY 2 MORNING SESSION DEPUTIES APPROVED ARTICLES 7 AND 8 WITH LITTLE DEBATE. ARTICLE 8, WHICH DEALS WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION COUNCILS, MODIFIED SLIGHTLY WITH EFFECT OF DECREASING GVN ROLE IN SELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS. FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS ART. 9 UNCHANGED. REMAINING PARAGRAPHS NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE ARTICLE 9. (3) THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUNICIPAL OR PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WHO ARE NOT CANDIDATES OR CANDIDATES'

REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE CHOSEN TO SERVE AS MEMBERS BY DRAWING LOTS.

(4) TWO VOTERS' REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN BY DRAWING LOTS FROM A LIST OF TWENTY NOTABLES WHO ARE NOT CANDIDATES OR CANDIDATES' REPRESENTATIVES WILL ALSO SERVE AS MEMBERS. THE LIST OF NOTABLES WILL BE NOMINATED BY MUNICIPAL OR PROVINCIAL COUNCILS.

(5) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY, TOWN OR PROVINCE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE WILL SERVE AS REPORTER AND WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE. UNQUOTE.

6. ARTICLE 10 PROVOKED LENGTHY DEBATE ON WHAT IS MOST DESIRABLE METHOD LIMITING NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. DR. DANG PAN SUNG PROPOSED THAT THERE BE NOMINATING SYSTEM PRIOR TO ELECTION WHEREBY CANDIDATES MUST BE ENDORSED BY AT LEAST ONE -

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QUARTER OF MEMBERSHIP OF IA OR ONE-QUARTER TOTAL NABER PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE AGREEMENT AMONG DEPUTIES THAT SOME SUCH SYSTEM

DESIRABLE. A NUMBER OF DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE MEMBERS

SPOKE IN

FAVOR OF PROPOSAL AS GOOD SUBETITUTE FOR RUN-OFF ELECTION WHICH DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION. OTHERS ENDORSEED IDEA AND ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT (ART. 21, PARA 3) AS UNDEMOCRATIC WAY TO LIMIT NUMBER OF CANDIDATES

7. BY VOTE OF 53 IN FAVOR OUT OF 75 PRESENT, CA DECIDED TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE ADDITION TO ARTICLE 10 CONDITION THAT PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES MUST BE "INTRODUCED" BY A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES OR COUNCILLORS. VOTE THEN TAKEN ON NUMBER OF DEPUTIES OR COUNCILLORS REQUIRED TO CONSTITUTE NOMINATION. BEFORE ADJOURNING FOR LUNCH CA HAD NARROWED CHOICE DOWN TO TWO POSSIBILITIES: ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATE BY (1) 15 DEPUTIES OR 30 COUNCILLORS, OR BY (2) 20 DEPUTIES OR 40 COUNCILLORS. FINAL VOTE ON MATTER DEFERRED UNTIL MAY 2 AFTERNOON SESSION.

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